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Sen. Hardiman joins in resisting higher-education cuts, but pledges to work with the governor

LANSING – Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, today joined his Republican colleagues on the Appropriations Committee in rejecting the governor's executive order regarding the state budget.

"I will work with the governor to resolve our state's budget problems," Hardiman said. "But I'm not going to go back on my word to college and university students and leaders. We in the Legislature promised them that they wouldn't see cuts if they kept their tuition increases reasonable and we plan to follow through on our end of the bargain and keep a college education affordable to young people in Michigan."

The governor's proposal would have cut \$30 million from state community colleges and universities, including more than \$1 million from Grand Valley State University and almost \$300,000 from Grand Rapids Community College. The cuts would come from the universities current fiscal year budgets.

But Hardiman said he remains committed to resolving the state's tough fiscal problems with the governor and House leaders.

"I like much of what the governor has proposed in her executive order, but my colleagues and I believe that we can't accept the proposal's current form," Hardiman said. "We will continue working through this process to find a solution acceptable to all."

Hardiman chairs the Appropriations subcommittee that deals with the Family Independence Agency.

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